

Sketch *of the* Life and Services
OF
General Thomas J. Henderson

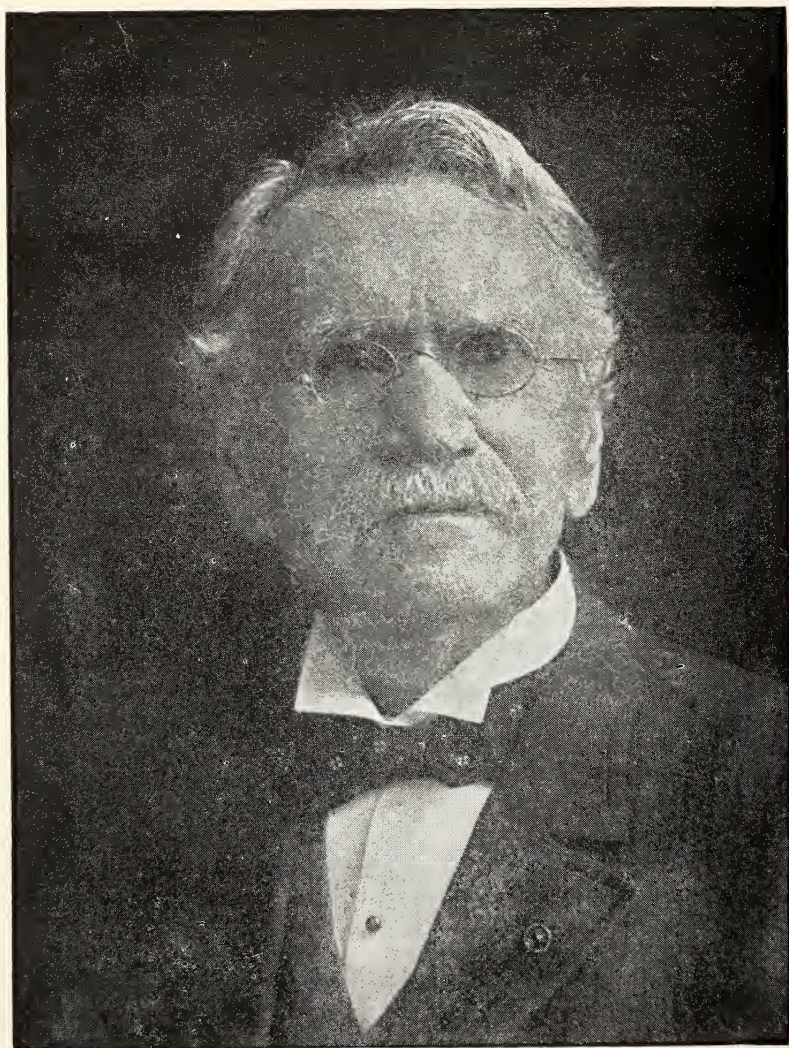
Life and Services
of
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THOMAS J. HENDERSON.

LIFE AND SERVICES OF GENERAL THOMAS J. HENDERSON.

By J. W. Templeton.

No more fitting place for a biographical sketch of General Thomas J. Henderson could be found than in the pages of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

For more than sixty years he had been in some capacity connected with the making of the history of the State and of the nation, and in every capacity in which he had been called to the service of the State or nation, his labors were characterized by efficiency, faithfulness and unswerving integrity.

General Henderson was a native of Tennessee. He was born November 29, 1824, and was a son of Colonel William H. Henderson and Sarah M. Henderson.

William H. Henderson, his father, was born in Garrard county Kentucky, November 16, 1793, and there spent his boyhood and youth. At the age of nineteen years he enlisted in Col. Richard M. Johnson's regiment of mounted riflemen, and served during the war of 1812. Having studied surveying, for some years he followed that profession in his native state, and in 1823 removed to Tennessee, locating in Stewart county. There he also engaged in surveying, and also filled a number of offices of honor and trust. He served as sheriff of his county, and later, when he removed to Haywood county, was elected to the state senate, which position he resigned in 1836, to remove to Illinois. He was the first register of deeds of Haywood county, in which Brownsville is lo-

cated, and there recorded the first deed the same year in which Thomas J. Henderson, his son, was born.

On coming to Illinois, William H. Henderson located in Putnam county, now Stark county, on a farm, but his business tact and abilities were soon recognized by the people, and two years after his arrival he was elected a member of the Legislature, in 1838, and in the winter of 1838-39 met with that body in its last session at Vandalia, and where he was associated with Lincoln, Edwards and other notable men. He also served in the first session of the Legislature meeting at Springfield, in the winter of 1840-41. While a member of that body he was instrumental in the creation and organization of Stark county. In 1842 he was a candidate on the Whig ticket for Lieutenant Governor, but was defeated. In 1845 he moved to Johnson county, Iowa, where he purchased and operated a large farm. His death occurred January 27, 1864, at the age of seventy-one years.

The boyhood of General Henderson was spent in his native state, and until eleven years of age he attended the common schools and the male academy at Brownsville, Tenn., and during the last year commenced the study of law. With his father's family he went to Stark county, where he attended the pioneer schools of that locality. Nine years later he again went with the family to Johnson county, Iowa, where he entered the State University at Iowa City and spent one term. Prior to this, however, he had taught country schools more than a year. On leaving the university he returned to Stark county, and taught the first term of school in a building just erected for that purpose at Toulon. He then clerked in a store for nearly a year, and in the fall of 1847 was elected clerk of the county commissioner's court of Stark county, and served as such until the office was changed to that of clerk of the county court, to which office he was elected and served until 1853. May 29, 1849, General Henderson was united in marriage to Miss Henrietta

Butler, daughter of Captain Henry and Rebecca (Green) Butler, of Wyoming, Illinois. Mrs. Henderson was born in New York City, August 11, 1830, and is still living at the old homestead in Princeton. Four children were born to them, Gertrude R., wife of C. J. Dunbar; Sarah E., wife of C. M. Durley; Mary L., wife of John Farnsworth and Thomas B., of Princeton. While discharging the duties of county clerk, which were not very arduous at that time, he continued his law studies, and in 1852, passed an examination and was admitted to practice. On the expiration of his term as clerk, in 1853, he opened an office in Toulon and commenced the practice of his chosen profession.

In those days law and politics seemed to go hand in hand, and in 1854 Mr. Henderson was elected a member of the Illinois Legislature and served in that capacity a term of two years. In 1856 he was elected to the State Senate and at that time was the youngest member of that body. Those were exciting times. The Whig party had ceased to exist, and the newly organized Republican party had sprung into existence. As an anti-Nebraska man, Gen. Henderson was elected to the House, but as a Republican he was later elected to the Senate. The celebrated Kansas-Nebraska act had been passed. The southern states were attempting to force slavery upon the newly organized territories, and the North, much against its will, was forced to recognize the great power wielded by the South, and the fact that that section was determined to have its way regardless of consequences. In this political fight General Henderson entered heart and soul.

The election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860 furnished the pretext for the southern states to carry out their threats. Secession acts were passed and the war for the preservation of the Union was begun. In almost every school house in Stark county, General Henderson addressed his fellow citizens, urging enlistments and pleading with all to stand by the administration and the Union.

In the summer of 1862, when the call came for 300,000 more, Mr. Henderson determined to enlist, and at once took the field and soon succeeded in raising a company, which became a part of the One Hundred and Twelfth Regiment, Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Assembling in camp, by permission of Governor Yates, the regiment was permitted to elect its colonel, and Mr. Henderson received the unanimous vote for the office. On the 22nd of September, 1862 the regiment was mustered into service and immediately ordered to the front. Its record for nearly three years following is a part of the history of that great struggle. In the campaigns through Georgia and Tennessee, the One Hundred and Twelfth was ever at the front, its colonel winning the good will of his superior officers for his conscientious discharge of every duty devolving upon him. "Always hopeful, always prompt, always courageous, a most loyal subordinate, and a most able and devoted leader," was the record given him by Major General J. D. Cox, under whom he long served. At the battle of Resaca, Georgia, May 14, 1864, he was severely wounded and lay in a hospital for some time, after which he was granted a furlough and came home to recuperate. Returning to his regiment, the Third Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-third Army Corps, was organized for him, and he was assigned to its command. As commander of this brigade, he served until the close of the war, being brevetted a brigadier general for gallant conduct during the campaign in Georgia and Tennessee, and especially at the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, the commission dating November 30, 1864.

The war over, the regiment being mustered out of service, General Henderson returned to his home in Toulon, Stark county, and quietly resumed the practice of law. There he remained until March, 1867, when he moved to Princeton and formed a partnership with the late Joseph I. Taylor in the practice of his profession, which was continued until 1871. At this time the General was appointed

by President Grant as United States Collector of internal revenue for the fifth Illinois district, with headquarters at Peoria. During the two years he was connected with that office he collected and turned over to the general government more than nine million dollars.

In 1868, General Henderson was one of the presidential electors for the state at large, and cast his vote for General Grant. In 1870, he unsuccessfully sought the nomination for Congress, and in 1874 was nominated and elected a member of the Forty-fourth Congress from the sixth district. During that term he served on the railways, canals and pension committees; in the Forty-fifth Congress he served on claims; in the Forty-sixth, on commerce; in the Forty-seventh he was chairman of the committee on military affairs; in the Forty-eighth, Forty-ninth and Fiftieth Congresses he served on the committee on rivers and harbors; in the Fifty-first he was chairman of the committee on rivers and harbors; and in the Fifty-second and Fifty-third he served on rivers and harbors, and also on banking and currency. For eight years he served as a member from the sixth district and for twelve years from the seventh. After each term he was renominated by acclamation. In all General Henderson served the people faithfully and well for twenty years. His greatest service as a member of Congress, as he regarded it, was rendered as a member of the committees on commerce and on rivers and harbors, in the improvement of the waterways of the country, and his principal achievement was the securing of the construction of the Hennepin canal, and this is a movement of which he may well be proud. A man more honest and devoted to the best interests of his constituents never entered the halls of Congress, and those that knew him best do not hesitate to say that he was in every respect a noble type of American manhood. For twenty years he was one of the most popular of the soldier statesmen in Congress, and his name stands for honesty, integrity and

everything that is good in politics and public life. No man in Bureau county in the past twenty years has stood nearer the hearts of the people.

General Henderson was one of the last of the civil war statesmen, who knew and enjoyed the friendship and confidence of Lincoln. In the early days of his long political career, he was intimately associated with the future president and while a member of the Illinois Legislature, before the breaking out of the war, he was privileged to do many favors for Lincoln, including a loyal support of his candidacy for the United States Senate in 1854.

In the later years of his life, when the incidents of those stirring days preceding and during the civil war had become invested with the glory which history weaves about the worthy deeds of men, the General entertained a just pride in his association with the men and affairs of the war times, and his most treasured possessions were those which were linked with the hallowed memory of Lincoln and the war. Among these was a series of letters written to him and to his father, William H. Henderson, by Lincoln, referring to Lincoln's candidacy for the senatorship and the faithful allegiance accorded him by the Princeton statesman. Most of the letters are still preserved in the family records of the Henderson family, two of which are reproduced together with this article.

LINCOLN LETTERS.

One of the Lincoln letters carefully preserved by General Henderson, is one in which Lincoln solicited his vote when a candidate for the office of United States Senator, in 1854. At that time General Henderson was a member of the Illinois Legislature. The letter is as follows:

“Springfield, Ill., Nov. 27, 1854.

“T. J. Henderson, Esq.

“My Dear Sir:—It has come around that a Whig may, by possibility, be elected to the United States Senate and

Springfield, Ill. Feb 21. 1855
Hon. W. H. Henderson.

My dear Sir:

Your letter of the 4th came
a lot of old deeds was received a
two day ago - Mr. [?] says he has the ones
but can not lay his hands upon it easily,
and can not find time to make a thorough
search, until he shall have gone to &
return from Chicago - So I lay the paper
by, and wait -

The election is over, the Session is ended,
and I am ~~not~~ Senator. I have to content
myself with the honor of having been
the first choice of a large majority of the
fifty members who finally made the
election. My larger number of friends have
to persuade to smaller number,
in order to prevent the action of Mr. [?],
which would have been a Douglas victory.
I started with 44 votes & T. with 5 - It
was rather hard for the 44 to have to suc-
cede to the 5 - and a less good humored
man than I, perhaps would not have con-
sented to it - and it would not have
been done without my consent - I could
not, however, let the whole political result
go to ruin, on a point merely personal to
myself -

Your poor, kindly and finely stored by me
for first to last, and for which he has
an everlasting gratitude -

Your friend as ever
A. Lincoln

I want the chance of being the man. You are a member of the Legislature and have a vote to give. Think it over and see whether you can do better than go for me.

“Write me at all events and let this be confidential.

“Yours truly,

“A. LINCOLN.”

The following letter was written by Lincoln to General Henderson's father and tells of the loyal support given him by the General in his candidacy for the Senatorship:

“Springfield, Ill., Feb. 21, 1855.

“Hon. W. H. Henderson,

“My Dear Sir:—Your letter of the 4th, covering a lot of old deeds was received only two days ago. Welton says he has the order but can not lay his hand upon it easily and can not take time to make a thorough search until he shall have gone to and returned from Chicago. So I lay the papers by and wait.

“The election is over, the session is ended and I am not Senator. I have to content myself with the honor of having been the first choice of a large majority of the fifty-one members who finally made the selection. My larger number of friends had to surrender to Trumbull's smaller number, in order to prevent the election of Matteson, which would have been a Douglas victory. I started with 44 votes & T. with 5. It is rather hard for the 44 to have to surrender to the 5 and a less good humored man than I, perhaps, would not have consented to it,—and it would not have been done without my consent. I could not, however, let the whole political result go to ruin, on a point merely personal to myself.

“Your son kindly and firmly stood by me from first to last and for which he has my everlasting gratitude.

“Your friend as ever,

“A. LINCOLN.”

General Henderson was invited by the Lincoln Club of Newark, N. J., to deliver an address at a banquet in cele-

bration of Lincoln's birthday, 1911, and before being taken sick had begun the preparation of an address for the occasion. The manuscript copy of the speech was afterwards found in a pocket of his overcoat, and like a message from the grave it was read at the banquet.

A part of this address is given here as of great historic value.

"But it was my good fortune, Mr. President, to begin my political life under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, and to have been somewhat actively and I may say, intimately associated with him, first, as a Whig, and then as a Republican, in the politics of Illinois, from my early manhood until he was elected President of the United States in 1860.

"I have here tonight a letter, in his own handwriting, written to me December 12, 1847, from Washington, when he was a member of Congress and I was but 23 years of age.

"In this letter, he says: 'It is my intention to snatch a moment now and then, to send documents to some friends, out of my district, among whom I shall place Captain Butler and yourself.'

"It was my good fortune, I have always thought, to have known Abraham Lincoln, personally, from my boyhood. I well remember the day and the occasion, when I saw him for the first time. It was in the month of June, 1840, at an immense Whig mass convention, held in Springfield, Ill., where Mr. Lincoln then resided, during the presidential campaign of that year, when General William Henry Harrison was the Whig candidate for President and Martin VanBuren the Democratic candidate.

"This convention brought together an immense gathering of the Whigs, and especially of the leading prominent Whigs, from all points of the State, from Chicago to Cairo, and from the Wabash river to the Mississippi. They came by delegations, in wagons, and in carriages,

on horseback and on foot. They came with music and with banners. They brought log cabins, built on wheels, and drawn by oxen, from long distances, with a barrel on one end of the cabin marked, 'Hard Cider,' and with coon skins nailed on the logs. It was called the 'Log Cabin Hard Cider and Coon Skin Campaign' as an opprobrium, by the Democrats.

"That, I think, was the first political convention I ever saw, and my father, who had served in the war of 1812 under General Harrison, took me and a younger brother with him and the delegation that went from the county, in which he lived, to attend it. My father, like Mr. Lincoln, was born in Kentucky, and like Mr. Lincoln, was a Clay Whig. They were then both of them representatives in our State Legislature, and warm personal friends, and my father introduced me to Mr. Lincoln, who gave me a very cordial and kind greeting, and at that great political assemblage was the first time I ever saw Abraham Lincoln.

"There were many leading, prominent Whig speakers of Illinois, able and eloquent speakers, who were present at that great mass convention among them were S. Lyle Smith, of Chicago, said to have been one of the most eloquent speakers in the State; Edward D. Baker and Abraham Lincoln, of Springfield; Rev. John Hogan, I think of Alton; John J. Hardin, of Jacksonville; Ben Bond, of Carlyle, and Fletcher Webster, a son of Daniel Webster, then quite a young man, living at Peru. I heard all of these men I have named, speak at that convention, and while I was too young, of course, to judge of the ability of these speakers, or the merit of the speeches, delivered by them, the impressions made upon my mind from what was said of them by my father and others were, that all of them, even Fletcher Webster, who was then a young man and not accustomed to public speaking, and had to be urged to speak, made able and interesting speeches, and many of them great speeches.

“Mr. Lincoln was not then so prominent as a speaker as some of the others, especially S. Lyle Smith, Edward D. Baker and John J. Hardin, who were noted for their ability and eloquence as speakers, but he was among the foremost, and was rapidly coming to the front, as a man of ability and as a speaker of great force. In fact six months before this great mass convention was held in December, 1839, Mr. Lincoln had participated in a political discussion in the hall of the House of Representatives at Springfield, Ill., with such men as Stephen A. Douglas, Josiah Lamborn and others. Mr. Lamborn was either then or had been, as I remember, attorney general of the State, and was a very able lawyer.

“This was not a joint political debate. Individual speakers made political speeches on the political issues of the campaign, just opening, on different days. Stephen A. Douglas made the first speech on one day; then Josiah Lamborn followed Mr. Douglas on another day and made the second speech, both speeches on the Democratic side. And then on another day, Abraham Lincoln made a speech on the Whig side, replying to Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lamborn, which was of so much ability and force that when the Legislature met, the Whig members had the speech printed in pamphlet form as a campaign document, and when my father came home from Springfield he brought a number of copies of the speech with him, and attracted as I was, by the eloquent peroration of Mr. Lincoln’s speech, although but a boy, I preserved a copy of the speech and committed the peroration to memory. And I recited it in a speech which I made at a ratification meeting in Kewanee, Ill., either on the day of Mr. Lincoln’s nomination for President of the United States, in 1860, or on the day following his nomination. Some years ago I brought with me to Washington City the copy of this old speech, which I had preserved and still keep, and at his request, I permitted John G. Nicolay to copy and publish it in one of the last volumes of his and John Hay’s life of Lincoln.

“If I had not preserved this pamphlet copy of Mr. Lincoln’s speech, when a boy, I have good reason to believe the speech would have been lost, for a few years ago at the request of some friends, I had a reprint of the speech made by Gibson & Sons, in Washington, and presented a copy of it to John Hay, then Secretary of State of the United States, and when I did so, I asked him the question, whether he or John Nicolay in their researches for material for the life and speeches of Abraham Lincoln, had found any other copy of the speech than the one I permitted them to copy and publish, and he said, no, they never found any other copy.

“I have a copy of the reprint of this speech here, and shall take pleasure in presenting it to the president of your club, and any of the members who may wish to examine it, I believe, will find it to be an able, argumentative and logical speech, showing great familiarity with public affairs, and with the political issues of the presidential campaign in 1840, and discussing them with great ability and clearness, and the speech was, as I think, a full and complete answer to the speeches of Mr. Douglas and Mr. Lamborn, and Mr. Lincoln was not then thirty-one years of age.

“I have not time this evening to comment on the ability of this speech as I would be glad to do, but as I have alluded to the closing part of the speech, will quote what he said in his own language. He said:

“ ‘Mr. Lamborn insists that the difference between the VanBuren party and the Whigs is, that although the former sometimes err in practice they are always correct in principle, whereas the latter are always wrong in principle, and the better to impress this proposition, he uses a figurative expression in these words, ‘The Democrats are vulnerable in the heel, but they are sound in the head and the heart. The first branch of the figure, that is, that the Democrats are vulnerable in the heel, I admit is not merely figuratively but literally true. Who that looks

but for a moment at their Swarthouts, their Prices, their Harringtons, and their hundreds of others, scampering away with the public money to Texas, to Europe, and to every spot of the earth, where a villian may hope to find refuge from justice can at all doubt that they are most distressingly affected in their heels, with a species of 'running itch.'

" 'It seems that this malady of their heels operates on these sound headed and honest-hearted creatures, very much like the cork leg in the comic song did on its owner, which, when he had once got started on it, the more he tried to stop it, the more it would run away. At the hazard of wearing this point threadbare, I will relate an anecdote, which seems too strikingly in point to be omitted. A witty Irish soldier, who was always boasting of his bravery, when no danger was near, but who invariably retreated without orders at the first charge of an engagement, being asked by his captain why he did so, replied, 'Captain, I have as brave a heart as Julius Caesar ever had, but somehow or other, whenever danger approaches, my cowardly legs will run away with it.' So with Mr. Lamborn's party, they take the public money into their hands for the most laudable purposes that wise heads and honest hearts can dictate, but before they can possibly get it out again, their rascally 'vulnerable heels' will run away with them.

" 'Seriously, this proposition of Mr. Lamborn's is nothing more or less than a request that his party may be tried by their profession, instead of their practices. Perhaps no position that the party assumes is more liable to or more deserving of exposure than this very modest request, and nothing but the unwarrantable length to which I have already extended these remarks, forbids me now attempting to expose it, for the reason given, I pass it by.

" 'I shall advert to but one more point.'

" 'And then follows the peroration which attracted my attention, and led me, as a boy, but sixteen years of age,

to preserve a copy of this great speech, which I did, and thus prevented it from being lost.

“ ‘Mr. Lamborn refers to the late elections in the states, and from their results confidently predicts that every state in the Union will vote for Mr. VanBuren at the next presidential election. Address that argument to cowards and to knaves; with the free and the brave it will effect nothing. It may be true; if it must, let it. Many free countries have lost their liberty, and ours may lose hers, but if she shall, be it my proudest plume, not that I was the last to desert, but that I never deserted her. I know that the great volcano at Washington, aroused and directed by the evil spirit that reigns there, is belching forth the laws of political corruption in a current broad and deep, which is sweeping with frightful velocity over the whole length and breadth of the land, bidding fair to leave unscathed no given spot, or living thing, while on its bosom are riding like demons on the waves of hell, the imps of that evil spirit, and fiendishly taunting all those who dare resist its destroying course, with the hopelessness of their effort, and knowing this I can not deny that all may be swept away. Broken by it, too, I may be; bow to it, I never will. The probability that we may fall in the struggle, ought not to deter us from the support of a cause we believe to be just; it shall not deter me. If ever I feel the soul within me elevate and expand to those dimensions, not wholly unworthy of its Almighty Architect, it is when I contemplate the cause of my country, deserted by all the world beside, and I standing up boldly and alone and hurling defiance at her victorious oppressor. Here without contemplating consequences before High Heaven, and in the face of the world, I swear eternal fidelity to the just cause, as I deem it, of the land of my life, my liberty and my love. And who that thinks with me will not fearlessly adopt the oath that I take? Let alone falter, who thinks he is right, and we may succeed. But if after all we shall fail, be it so. We still

shall have the proud consolation of saying to our consciences, and to the departed shades of our country's freedom, that the cause approved of our judgment, and adored of our hearts, in disaster, in chains, in torture, in death, we never faltered in defending.'

"I doubt if a more eloquent outburst of pure, exalted patriotism, love of one's own land and country, and devotion to duty and to principle was ever uttered by any other man in all the world's history. And was not this love of country, this devotion to duty and to principle exhibited in all the acts of Abraham Lincoln as President of the United States, in his heroic and patriotic efforts to maintain and preserve the government of his country, and suppress the rebellion and that from the very day of his election until his assassination, it seems so to me, he never faltered, he never wavered for one moment in his duty, 'that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.'

"But to refer again for a moment to the Whig mass convention held in Springfield, Ill., in June, 1840, it had seemed to me rather a remarkable incident that four of the distinguished Whig speakers, whom I have mentioned as making speeches at that convention, and whose speeches I heard as a boy should afterwards have been killed in war, when in the service of their country. John J. Hardin, who had been a member of Congress and who was colonel of an Illinois regiment, in the war with Mexico, was killed when in command of his regiment at the battle of Buena Vista, Edward D. Baker, who also had been a member of Congress and a colonel of an Illinois regiment in the war with Mexico, and at the time of his death was a United States Senator from the state of Oregon, and also a general in the Union army, was killed at Ball's Bluff in the state of Virginia during the civil war; Fletcher Webster, son of Daniel Webster, who had gone back to his native state, Massachusetts, was killed at the head of his regiment at the second battle of Bull Run,

in the civil war. And Abraham Lincoln, whose name and fame are now immortal and imperishable, was assassinated in April, 1865, when President of the United States, just as the measure of his fame seemed full, and peace was dawning upon our war stricken land, and the preservation of the Union for which he had labored and struggled, and given all strength of his masterly ability, seemed well assured."

General Henderson was taken ill while in Washington in attendance upon a meeting of the Board of Ordnance, of which he was a member, and died at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Farnsworth, Sunday, February 5, 1911. His remains were brought to Princeton, Ill. for burial.

Some of the soldiers of his old regiment, the 112th Illinois; some of those who had been his devoted followers during his active political career; some of the few surviving pioneer residents of Stark, Henry, Putnam and Bureau counties gathered at his last resting place and sorrowfully paid their last tribute to one who as a soldier, as a statesman or as a citizen was worthy of the salutation, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Resolutions unanimously adopted by the Surviving Members of the 112th Regiment Illinois Volunteers at the 46th Annual Reunion, held at Toulon, Stark County, Illinois.

IN MEMORIAM.

GENERAL THOMAS J. HENDERSON.

On the fifth day of February, 1911, our old Commander, and President of our Regimental Association, was mustered out after a long, useful and honorable service in behalf of his country and his fellow-men, and joined the majority of his comrades and associates in that bourne whence no traveler returns, on the golden shore of that mystic river where there is life eternal.

Thomas J. Henderson, although Southern born, had no sympathy with the institution of slavery, nor with the oligarchy of slave-holders who drove the South into secession, and inaugurated a great civil war in the attempt to dissolve the Union and establish a separate and independent government whose chief corner-stone was to be the institution of slavery.

In August, 1862, Thomas J. Henderson raised a company of volunteers for the Union Army and was unanimously chosen its captain. Upon the organization of the 112th Regiment Illinois Volunteers, he was unanimously elected its Colonel by a vote of all the members of the regiment, and was mustered into the United States service, as Colonel, September 22, 1862.

He commanded a brigade in a cavalry corps of the Army of the Ohio during the winter of 1863-4, and commanded a brigade of infantry in the 23d Corps, Army of the Ohio, from August 12, 1864, to the end of the war.

He was severely wounded in the battle of Resaca, Georgia, May 14, 1864.

He was recommended for promotion by his superior officers, division, corps and army commanders, for gallant and meritorious service in the Georgia and Tennessee campaigns, in the year 1864, and especially in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864, and was appointed by President Lincoln, Brigadier General by Brevet, January 5, 1865, to rank from November 30, 1864.

General Henderson was a strict disciplinarian, but he governed by kindness, by appealing to the manhood and patriotism of his men, rather than by harsh or severe measures. No member of the 112th Illinois ever suffered any humiliating punishment or public disgrace for offenses committed in the army.

There was none of that pompous, over-bearing, self-superior manner, often seen in army officers in their intercourse with their men. He was courteous and kind to his men, and took an active interest in their welfare while in the army, as he has done ever since.

He was a commander in every sense of the word, and enforced his authority as such; but he was also a comrade and a friend to every member of his regiment; and every man honored and respected him, and cheerfully obeyed his orders, and loved him as a comrade and a friend.

In a letter from the division commander to General Henderson, written on the eve of the muster-out of the regiment, the writer said: "There are few regiments in the service which have a more creditable record, or one of which they and their children may be more justly proud than that of the 112th Illinois. * * * * But your regiment gained its laurels not on the battle field alone. It has won a reputation for order, discipline and strict regard for law and the rights of non-combatants which gives it an enviable standing among the volunteer soldiers of the Union."

On several occasions the 112th Illinois was called upon to perform special service on account of its reputation for order and discipline, and the high character of its officers and men, and the confidence of superior officers in their *morale* and efficiency.

The regiment won the highest regard of citizens and soldiers of other regiments for its good conduct in camp, its orderly appearance on the march, and its steady bearing and courage in action.

And we owe the excellent reputation of the regiment, of which we are all justly proud, to the wisdom, patriotism and firmness of General Henderson, and to his careful instruction and kindly advice in the early days of our service.

General Henderson was not only a brave and faithful soldier, but a statesman as well, and served his country faithfully many years, in the halls of Congress, and in other positions of honor and trust. As a citizen, as a soldier, as a statesman, as an honorable, upright, noble man, he was respected and loved by all who knew him.

Resolved, That we extend to the widow and family of General Henderson our sincere sympathy and condolence in their great loss and bereavement. He was a true husband and father to them; he was a father, a brother, a comrade and a friend to us. We mourn with them; we mingle our tears with theirs. We miss his friendly greeting, his kindly welcome here today. His office, as President of our Association, is vacant. His chair is draped in mourning. We honor and revere his memory. He will never preside nor be present at future reunions. But "death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity, and grants to us the crown of life," and we shall meet him and greet him in the great reunion above as a friend and comrade of yore.

Farewell, —no not farewell, —good-bye, dear old commander, comrade and friend, until we meet again.

“The hero lies still where the dew-dripping willows
Like fond weeping mourners lean over his grave.
The lightnings may flash, the loud thunder rattle;
He heeds not, he hears not; he’s free from all pain.
He sleeps his last sleep; he has fought his last battle;
No sound can awake him to glory again.”

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted, by the Secretary, to the several members of the family of General Henderson.

B. F. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

MEMORIAL OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION.

Companion Thomas Jefferson Henderson was born at Brownsville, Tennessee, November 29, 1824, and died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Farnsworth, in the city of Washington, D. C., February 5, 1911. He was buried in Oakland cemetery at Princeton, Illinois, his home for more than thirty years.

Companion Henderson was elected to membership in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States in the Commandery of the District of Columbia, June 7, 1882, First Class, and transferred to the Commandery of the State of Illinois December 17, 1895. He was a son of Col. William H. Henderson and Sarah M. Henderson. When eleven years old Companion Henderson with his father and father's family removed from their native state, Tennessee, to Stark county, Illinois. When a young man he attended the State University at Iowa City, and taught school in Toulon for a number of terms. In the year 1847 he was elected clerk of the county commissioner's court of Stark county and served until that office was changed to that of clerk of the county court, to which office he was then elected, and in which he served until 1853. During his incumbency of the office of clerk he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1852. In 1854 he was elected a member of the House of Representatives in the General Assembly of Illinois and served two years. In 1856 he was elected a member of the State Senate and served four years.

The civil war was now impending. Companion Henderson had a wife and four children dependent upon him for support and guidance, but in the summer of 1862, im-

mediately following the call of President Lincoln for 300,000 men, he raised a company in Stark county in two days. This and two other companies from Stark county and seven companies from Henry county were organized into the 112th Regiment, Ill. Vol. Inf., August 18, 1862; and on that day Companion Henderson was unanimously elected colonel of that regiment, which was mustered into the service of the United States September 22, 1862, and mustered out June 20, 1865, at the close of the war. His service was with the Armies of the Ohio and Cumberland. He was severely wounded at the battle of Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864. He commanded the Second Brigade, Second Division Cavalry Corp, Army of the Ohio, for a number of months, and commanded the Third Brigade, Third Division, 23rd Army Corp, from August 12, 1864, until he was mustered out of the service. He was recommended for promotion to Brigadier General by Major General Cox and by Major General Scofield, commander of the Army of the Ohio, for gallant services in the Georgia and Tennessee campaign, and especially at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864. He was commissioned Brevet Brigadier General January 6, 1865, to rank November 30, 1864.

At the close of the war, and after being mustered out of the army with his regiment, he returned to his home in Toulon, Stark county, and resumed the practice of law. In March, 1867, he moved to Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, and there successfully practiced his profession until his election to Congress in 1874. In 1868 General Henderson was one of the presidential electors for the State at large and cast his vote for General Grant for President. In 1871 he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fifth District of Illinois by President Grant, and served and discharged the duties of that position with intelligence and the utmost fidelity.

In 1874 he was elected a member of the 44th Congress from the Sixth District of Illinois, and was re-elected nine time successively thereafter, serving four terms

from the Sixth and six terms from the Seventh, covering twenty years of service, from March 4, 1875, to March 4, 1895, and at each convention which nominated him after the first he was renominated by acclamation. In 1896 he was appointed a member of the Board of Managers of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and Sailors, and served successively as secretary, second vice president and first vice president of the board until his decease. January 18, 1900, he was appointed civil member of the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications, and served on that board until he died.

And so we note fifty-two years—more than half a century—of the life of our companion was spent in the public service. He was intensely patriotic and was ever mindful of his patriotic duties in private and public life, and proved his devotion to his country on many a hard fought field of battle, as well as in the halls of Congress. He was learned in his profession, able as an advocate, always affable and courteous, and a strict observer of the ethics of his profession. He was an honest, generous, able man, sincere in his convictions and strong in his adherence to what he believed. His military record with that of the regiment and brigades he commanded formed no small part of the history of the great struggle for the preservation of the Union. “Always hopeful, always prompt, always courteous, a most loyal subordinate and a most able and devoted leader,” was the eponium paid him by Major General J. D. Cox, under whose command he rendered long service. This compliment is quite enough to inscribe his name among the noblest and bravest of the many heroes who rendered gallant service in that mighty struggle for Union and Liberty and Humanity.

In his early life General Henderson very well knew and was intimately associated with President Lincoln and enjoyed his confidence and friendship. In 1855 he was one of the forty-four members who voted for the future Presi-

dent for United States Senator. He admired the great President beyond any other man of his time.

Shortly before our deceased companion was taken ill he was invited by the Lincoln Club of Newark, N. J., to deliver an address at a banquet to be given by that club in celebration of Lincoln's birthday, and had prepared his address for the occasion, the manuscript of which was found after his decease. In it he quoted a part of a speech made by Mr. Lincoln in the General Assembly of Illinois in 1839, perhaps the most remarkable of Mr. Lincoln's great speeches. In his prepared address General Henderson said, "I doubt if a more eloquent outburst of pure exalted patriotism, love of one's own land and country, and devotion to duty and to principle, was ever uttered by any other man in all the world's history."

But after all, the crowning glory of General Henderson's life was his high character and great, tender and loving heart. Although as strong as a lion, he was as gentle as a child; although able and learned, he was modest and unassuming. He was kind to all and generous to a fault. His loving heart and genial nature won for him in return the most sincere love and affection of all who knew him. Kind thoughts and kind words were habits of his life—the natural impulses of his heart.

"He never made a brow look dark,
Nor caused a tear but when he died."

But our companion's earthly career is closed.

"To our graves we walk in the thick foot-prints of departed men."

"Champion of right, but from Eternity's far shore
Thy spirit will return to join the strife no more.

Rest, statesman, soldier, rest, thy troubled strife is
o'er."

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, at its meeting on March Fifteenth, Nineteen Hundred and Eleven.

IN MEMORIAM.

General Thomas Jefferson Henderson, first vice president of this board, died February 5th, 1911, in the eighty-seventh year of his age. His death removes from the board a member whose service of fifteen years was marked by a faithful discharge of every duty, and an affectionate consideration for the welfare of the old soldiers who have become the nation's charges, and this in spite of the pains of illness, and the burdens of advancing years.

General Henderson's whole life was given to his country. Born in Tennessee, in 1824, and educated there and at the State University of Iowa, he entered the profession of the law. He was clerk of Stark county, and a member of both Houses of the Illinois Legislature.

He served in the civil war for three years, as colonel of the 112th Illinois Volunteers, being brevetted brigadier General. He was a member of Congress from 1875 to 1895, and in recent years was a member of the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications. He became a member of this board on April 21, 1896, and was successively secretary, second vice president and first vice president, which latter office he held at the time of his death.

His life was characterized by a lofty patriotism, by a conscientious discharge of every duty, and by an ability of a high order. He was kindly and considerate, and the unflinching affection which he always exhibited towards his associates in the management of the National Home endeared him to us in a fine and beautiful way that is difficult to properly describe.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SOCIETY OF
THE ARMY OF OHIO.

IN MEMORY OF GENERAL THOMAS J. HENDERSON, OF
PRINCETON, ILLINOIS.

WHEREAS, God in His infinite wisdom did, on the fifth instant, take from this world to a sphere of everlasting bliss, our Comrade and President of the Society of the Army of the Ohio, General Thomas J. Henderson, a personal friend of President Abraham Lincoln, a state and national legislator, a brave colonel of the 112th Illinois Infantry, and a brigadier general in the volunteer army of the United States.

Resolved, By the members of this society, that in the death of our comrade, we have sustained an irreparable loss, and that his loss extends to the whole country of which he was so prominent and valuable a citizen. It terminates a life spent in constant energetic and effective work for the nation and for his comrades in arms.

General Henderson was of the highest type of American manhood. He did not hesitate to support with his sword the principles which he had advocated and went to the field, and for three years was one of the most trusted commanders in the Army of the Ohio. He left a sick bed to take command of his brigade at Franklin, and helped to secure the great and crowning victory in that battle. For his gallantry there he was brevetted a brigadier general.

He was born in Tennessee, in the country in which he did such gallant fighting for the salvation of the nation. Removing to Illinois, he became one of the most earnest opponents of slavery and came to the front in politics as a man of the highest integrity and ability and a capable leader.

He was a Congressman ten consecutive terms and added to the high reputation he had gained in the field by distinguished services as a national legislator and as such was always found on the side of right, justice and the greater glory of the country.

In every relation of life Comrade Henderson illustrated the highest characteristics of the American citizen, one to whom young Americans may look as a high model of what their lives should be.

Brave as the bravest when duty called, he was tender and true to all and particularly attached to the comrades who had stood shoulder to shoulder with him in the fierce fires of battle.

Every day of General Henderson's life brought some good work and his passing is an affliction to all who had opportunity to know his worth.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the family of General Henderson for preservation in the archives of their patriotic affection, as a heartfelt tribute from his battle field comrades.

GEO. REDWAY,
Vice President, S. A. O.

JOHN A. JOYCE,
Secretary, S. A. O.

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 9, 1911.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ILLINOIS STATE
SENATE.

WHEREAS, It has pleased the Almighty Ruler of this universe to remove from this earth General Thomas J. Henderson, who was a member of the Senate of Illinois, in the Twentieth and Twenty-first General Assemblies, from 1856 to 1860 and,

WHEREAS, In every public capacity, as a member of the Illinois Legislature, as a soldier on the field of battle in defense of his country, and as a member of Congress, where he served with distinction for twenty years, he always gave to that State and nation the most patriotic devotion and faithful service; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we recognize in the passing of General Henderson that Illinois has lost another of her grand old men, whose influence is told in the history of the State, and whose proudest monument shall ever be the record of his illustrious service;

Resolved, That his memory is, and ever should be, an inspiration to us all for high endeavor, noble sacrifice and honest, faithful service of our country and a devotion to those sacred institutions which he so dearly cherished; and,

Resolved, further, That these resolutions be entered in the Journal of the Senate; that an engrossed copy thereof be sent to the family of the deceased, and that as a further mark of respect, this Senate do now adjourn.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ILLINOIS HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, The Honorable Thomas J. Henderson, a former member of the Illinois General Assembly, departed this life in the city of Washington, D. C., on the 5th day of February, 1911, while serving as a member of the National Board of Control of Soldiers' Homes and member of the Board of Ordnance; and,

WHEREAS, General Henderson was a man of unblemished character and national prominence as a soldier and statesman, having served in the civil war as colonel of the 112th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and later brevetted brigadier general, and having ably and efficiently served his district in Congress for 18 years; and,

WHEREAS, He was a member of the House in the Nineteenth General Assembly and of the Senate in the Twentieth and Twenty-first General Assemblies; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House, That we express our sincere sympathy to his family and friends; and, be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be forwarded to his family and as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

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